Oil Companies from various parts of the country are given below:

1992-93	40
1993-94	27
1994-95	30

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The suggestion that delivery-man should carry a weighing scale with him and weigh the cylinder in the presence of consumer was experimented in the past but has not proved effective.

(e) There are clearly laid down procedures to ensure correctness of the weight of LPG refill cylinders at the bottling plants. Further, the LPG refill cylinders are weighed by the distributors at the time of receipt from the LPG bottling plants and underweight cylinders are returned to the bottling plant. Before delivery of refill cylinder to the consumers, the distributors are required to weigh the same to ascertain correctness of weight. As and when specific complaints about the sale of underweight cylinders are received, they are investigated by the LPG marketing comapnies and if the complaint is established, appropriate action is taken against the LPG distributor under the Marketng Discipline Guidelines and also by the State Government through their Weights and Measures Departments.

Norms for allotment of LPG Agencies

3700. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms followed for allotment of LPG agency;

(b) what is the total population that is taken into consideration to allot LPG agencies; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the need for LPG has risen four folds due to paucity of fire wood trees, which are almost extinct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) LPG distributorships are allotted to the persons meeting eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, income, residence and multiple dealership norms through the process of advertsement and selection by Oil Selection Boards for the locations included in the Marketing Plans. In addition, a few dealership/distributorships are allotted under discretionary powers of the Government on compassionate grounds. ....

(b) At present, LPG distributorships are opened at places having a population of 20,000 and above as per 1991 census in a phased manner, subject to product availbility and the economic viability of the location.

(c) Demand for LPG is growing rapidly. In order to meet this growing demand, 623 new LPG distributorships were included in the Marketing Plan 1992-94 and 1020 new LPG distributorships are included in the Marketing Plan 1994-96 all over the country.

Import of Natural Gas

3701. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries from where natural gas is imported;

(b) the details of natural gas imported during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise, indicating the amount spent during the same period;

(c) whether he had stated, while inaugurating a two day Asian Development Bank Conference on Natural Gas Potential South Asia Summit, that India may import gas from Indonesia and Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the extent of natural gas to be imported from these countries and also from other countries, with whom consultations are on for import of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) There has been no import of natural gas from any country so far. Feasibility studies for importing natural gas from Oman, Qatar and Iran are in progress. The possibility of importing gas from Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar is also being explored.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas Along Coast Line of Karnataka

3702. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government for exploration of oil and natural gas along Karnataka's coast line; and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Karnataka offshore area, sejsmic data has been acquired from 1977 onwards. Two blocks in the Karnataka offshore were taken up for exploration by Shell during Third Round of Bidding. They acquired 9898 L.K. of seismic data.

So far three Wells have been drilled one by ONGC and two by Shell without any success.

Though Blocks were offered during Fourth and Fifth Rounds also, no bid was received.

Presently, 2D Seismic data is being acquired in the deep waters including areas of the Karnataka Coast.

Contract for Blow out at Pasarlapudi—19 GAS well

3703. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blow out contract has been given to the International Well Control (IWC) a splinter group of the Red Addair of Texas US;

(b) if so, whether the team took up the work of blow out in Parasiapudi—19 gas well in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the estimated cost of the expenditure incurred on this contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b): M/s. Emergency Resouces International Inc. (ERI) Texas, USA having senior personnel of erstwhile Red Adair Co., assisted ONGC in the fire fighting and capping of the well.

(c) The expenditure incurred by ONGC is Rs. 136.77 lakhs.

Allocation of Kerosene to Gujarat

3704. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of Kerosene under the Public Distribution System is made on the basis of actual population, as per the 1991 census;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Governmet propose to allocate more Kerosene under PDS to Gujarat during 1995-96, on the basis of actual population as per the 1991 census;